

25 September 1987

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD


SUBJECT: PRG on Nicaragua, 23 September 1987

1. The purpose of the meeting was to review the current situation in Central America and to discuss where we go from here. There was no intelligence update provided. All participants were aware of the efforts by Nicaragua to comply with the peace plan.

2. The major issue was how to get aid for the Contras. Colin Powell made the argument that the issue in Congress must be decided in the context of larger US interests not just Sandinista compliance with the peace plan. There was some discussion on whether we should have direct negotiations with the Sandinistas. The group was split over the danger versus the value of such direct talks. State Department and Colin Powell want the issue before Congress to be clearly stated so that there is a vote up or down on US policy and support to the Contras and not just a vote on the current behavior of the Nicaraguans.

3. The only real decision was to establish a working group that will focus on the objective of getting a positive vote from Congress. That group is to develop a checklist of things the US consider conditions of Nicaragua behavior in addition to those already in the peace plan.

4. I suggest that we do not work directly on this group but support it through our normal contacts with State and the NSC. I think if we get too close to this group, we will be pushed into the political foray.

  
Richard J. Kerr  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

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